

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2006**

Members Present: Morris, Ennis, Carroll, Endres, Harden, Kitson, Lardizzone, Magner, Spitzfaden, and Timberman

Members Excused: Lank, Newstadt, Thompson, Wasson and Webb

Staff Present: Davila

Guests: Harriet Smith Windsor and Al Carter (SOS), Eugene Hebert and Ron Sarg (MOWW), Ed Moczulski (LP Lo-DEL), Dave White (DOL), Burton Barr (NARFE), Rich Robichand (DEL VETS), Don White Jr. (American Legion)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Secretary Smith Windsor commented that a lot of effort has gone into the Veterans Home, much of it being done by the Commission, and she thanked everyone. She wanted to let everyone know she would continue to offer her support and is available if anyone wants to talk or ask questions. Chairman Morris thanked her for her involvement on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Moczulski talked about the services he provides to incarcerated veterans as a part of the outreach program. He thanked the Commission and Mr. Davila for allowing him the opportunity to get involved with these veterans. Mr. White also thanked everyone for a successful year and all the time and effort put into serving veterans.

MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT DECEMBER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY LARDIZZONE, MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Carroll commented that he felt the cemetery written report was very informative. Commissioner Magner reported that he had been to the northern Cemetery over the holidays and felt it looked immaculate. There was discussion about the improvements and the appearance of the Cemetery.

COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS

No report.

FINANCE AND LOGISTICS

No report.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Chairman Morris reported that Mr. Davila and his staff have composed a report of current and active legislation for the Commission.

PERSONNEL

No report.

MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

No report.

HOME DEDICATION

No report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report.

BY-LAWS

Vice Chairman Ennis reported that the committee will be meeting within the next month.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Commissioner Carroll reported that as of January 20, 2006, the balance in the Veterans Home Fund was \$156,813.49. He stated the Veterans Home construction is on schedule. There was discussion about issues brought up at the last Steering Committee meeting. Commissioner Carroll reported that the director of nursing position has been posted and there will be a number of applicants to interview. The maintenance supervisor for the Veterans Home has been hired. There was further discussion about other issues related to the Home. Commissioner Carroll commented on Executive Order No. 79 and House Bill 335. Chairman Morris commented about issues concerning the governing of the Veterans Home. Discussion followed. Chairman Morris announced a Veterans Business Owner's Workshop will be conducted on January 25, 2006.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Spitzfaden (MOAA) – Introduced the newly elected President of the Dover Chapter of MOAA, Col. Ron Sarg. He reported that the MOAA members do not understand why it is taking so long to appoint an oversight committee for the Home. They also want it known that they do not want any civilian activity at the VA Hospital in Elsmere.

Harden (WAVES) – Reported that WAVES met and discussed the new flags for the Cemetery. Applications have gone out for their scholarship program.

Ennis (KWVA) – Attended the State of the State and has been in communication with the Chairman.

Endres (40 & 8) – Stated that he is just a representative of 40 & 8 and relays messages from his organization.

Magner (AMVETS) – Asked members of his post to attend the legislative session on Thursday in support of HB 335.

Carroll (MOPH) – Reported that he met with Mr. Citron, VA Director. Mr. Citron informed him that the East Orange, NJ VA did not receive the participation that they expected and the program has not proven to be effective. It is not sure if they will continue. Mr. Citron is meeting today with the Congressional group and offered to attend next month's Commission meeting to provide a briefing. The Purple Heart Stamp will be reissued. The MOPH National Commander and officers will testify before the Joint Hearing in the Senate House and Veterans Affairs Committee on February 15, 2006, at 10:30, along with other organizations. They have received notice of the viewing of the WWII film in Wilmington on February 3, 2006, at 7:00 pm. There was discussion about this event.

Lardizzone (DAV) – On behalf of the DAV, he wanted to thank the American Legion for their donation of \$500 for the van. He will not be here on February 28, 2006; he will be attending the Joint Session of the Congress of the Civil American Veterans.

Morris (American Legion) – They had their department meeting last week and they are getting fired up for the National Commander's visit; provided he does not get called to Iraq.

Commissioner Harden reported that they are holding the "Salute to Hospitalized Veterans" at the VA Hospital for the entire week of February 12, 2006. Several other organizations are participating and she has gotten the Philly Fanatic to come down one day. She asked everyone to please stop in and see the veterans.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Morris reported that the trip to East Orange, NJ VA has been postponed temporarily. Vice Chairman Ennis brought up the proposed cornerstone laying for the new Veterans Home on December 7, 2006. Discussion followed and a vote was taken.

MOTION BY LARDIZZONE TO APPROVE THE VETERANS HOME CORNERSTONE DEDICATION BE COMPLETED BY THE GRAND LODGE, SECONDED BY ENDRES, MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Timberman asked if individuals could get the Commission meeting minutes sent to them by e-mail and was told he only had to provide us with e-mail addresses. He also wanted to know if an out-of-state person could receive "The Centurion" newsletter and he was told it was posted on our web page.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Secretary Smith Windsor commented that she thought it was appropriate that the Secretary of State's office pay for the State Seal in the entrance of the Veterans Home, it would be their gift to the veterans.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 28, 2006 (11:00 AM)

**LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED